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THE ESSENTIALS OF BETTER CITY GOVERNMENT.

"Five men can govern a city better than fifty, providing that the five are chosen because of special fitness for the tasks assigned them. If they have no special fitness, dependence might better be placed upon the fifty, since out of the lot the chances are that some possessing the necessary knowledge for carrying on government might be found. The argument in favor of the smaller number holds good only on the theory and with the positive understanding that it shall be composed of persons qualified to manage the affairs of the community expertly and efficiently."

That states the case and the whole case that is now up to the people of Richmond to decide, although the words quoted are those of a Massachusetts authority on municipal government who is doubtless ignorant of the fact that this city has adopted a new form of government in which the five members of the Administrative Board will have in their hands to a great degree, the government of the municipality. If the utterance has been made with specific reference to the present situation here, it could not have been more appropriate. If the people of Richmond will elect from the sixteen candidates to whom choice is now confined five men of special fitness and special knowledge, five men of experience and efficiency, our new form of government will succeed. If five men of ordinary qualifications, ignorant as to advanced and business-like methods, inept and inefficient, are selected, it were better that the city had remained under the old form of cumbersome councilmanic administration.

There are two paramount prerequisites to progressive, economical and efficient city government: (1) the selection of the five best available men for the Administrative Board; (2) the active moral support and the keen and lasting interest of the people in the conduct of their city government. The first of these indispensable conditions has already been commented on. The second is no less essential to the establishment of enlightened municipal rule. No mere form of government is sufficient in itself. The case of commission government illustrates that fact. In the first flush of its beginnings that form was regarded as the sovereign elixir that by itself would cure all municipal ills. The belief was prevalent that if only the old system of city administration were abandoned and the new system put into operation, everything would then run smoothly and satisfactorily. The fact was lost sight of that the wonderful success achieved by some of the cities earliest in the commission movement was attributable principally to the increased integrity manifested by their citizens in city affairs. Wherever the civic spirit of the municipality has been stirred abundantly, the simpler form of government has worked out a splendidly, and wherever this spirit has been maintained, commission government still satisfies. There is a darker side, however, to the best of the commission movement, after putting commission government into effect, has withdrawn its active support in the confidence that the new system would work automatically to the benefit of the community, there has been disappointment and failure, and the commission plan has been criticized for not doing what it was never intended to do and what it could in no circumstances do.

The commission plan appears to be the ideal system of city government, no longer as the individual citizen does his duty to the city. It is to be hoped that the old system of city government, with its civic responsibility, civic rule and employer's rule can be easily made a willing instrument in their hands of a simplified as of a complicated system of local government, if the people are not looking.

The problem of city government is no simple one. It is with the study of every man, no matter how skilled or humble he may be, for every citizen should be actively interested in the way the business of his city is being carried on. The question is national in scope. The National Municipal League which met here last November is now in session in Los Angeles, and its chief object for discussion and deliberation is the expert management of local government. Such management is as necessary as honest administration to the successful operation of city government, even where a new form has been adopted. The American people are slowly realizing the fact that they have as much right to demand efficiency, economy and progress from their city government as any other employers have the right to demand from their employees those things in the conduct of their business. The people of Richmond must require those things, and

to do that it must elect the men who can render the best service to the city.

JUDGE GRINNAN'S RETIREMENT.
"A barrier from public spectacles." That was the meaning of the word from which we derive "chancery" and the original sense is yet appropriate to our courts of chancery. Although they are of the highest dignity and the most vital importance, they are more screened from public interest than other courts, for chancery is a special branch of the law in which few are learned and whose subjects of jurisdiction are ordinarily not spectacular. Our present day chancellors are no longer custodians of the great seal of State, but their duty is as exalted and their judgments as far-reaching; to pay of a chancery judge that he is learned, wise and capable is to pay no common tribute.

Of Judge Daniel Grinnan, who shortly retires from the Chancery Court of the city of Richmond, that much and more can be said. For a decade he has excelled the immemorial concision of his court wisely and justly, following the law, seeking to aid the diligent and not the slothful, requiring that who sought equity should do equity and should come in with clean hands. After two terms of fine service, he will voluntarily leave the bench before a quarter of his third term has expired. He has won the esteem of the severest critics of the judiciary—the practicing bar—and he has won it not only by his courtesy and kindness, but also by his absolute fairness and his keen judicial spirit. At a time when courts throughout the land are congested and years behind their dockets, Judge Grinnan will leave his docket clear, having performed his full duty as a thorough, energetic and studious hearer of equity causes. From the seat which he has filled so acceptably he will go with the consciousness that he has done that which became a judge and that still yet he carries with him the commendation and the appreciation of the people of Richmond.

"WOODROW WILSON FITS THE ERA"

In taking up the gauntlet thrown down by the sneerers at "the scholar in politics" and in defending his assertions that "Woodrow Wilson fits the era" that "no better choice could have been made" at Baltimore, and that "The was the logical selection," the Boston Globe presents a striking, most interesting and most illuminating analysis of the character of the Democratic nominee, and what he has achieved. It is a presentation that should be read and known by all Democrats, and also by all independent voters, who hold the highest interests of the nation above the dictates of partisanship, party affiliation and tradition. It should be studied by our leaders and utilized, as it could be, most potently, as a concise, unanswerable campaign document. It bristles with salient points illustrative of the wisdom of the convention's decision. It appeals to the patriotism, the intelligence and the common sense of the country.

The Globe contends that the gubernatorial administration of the nominee is probably "the most notable state administration of recent years throughout the Union" and it supports its contention with these indisputable facts: Under Governor Wilson's direction, in one session of the New Jersey Legislature, were passed a direct primary law, a corrupt practice act, an advanced public utility bill, an employers' liability bill, a law permitting the commission form of city government and a law regulating the coal storage of food, "all of which," as our contemporary affirms, "were accomplished through statesmanlike effort." And upon what basis antecedent course and qualifications has Governor Wilson, "the scholar in politics," been enabled to take this post-graduate political and public life degree?

The Globe answers, in a quote: "The Ohio years of Mr. Governor Wilson has been a student of government and economics. As student, teacher and writer, he was qualified to take some of his views second-hand. As a candidate for office, he was able to see how close is the alliance between some responsible men and graft. The attention that he gave to the public mind has been a man of inferior equipment. But Woodrow Wilson met it with character and ability. As a lawyer, he knew how statutes should be drawn; as a writer, he knew how they should be written; as an orator, he knew how to persuade the thinking ones, and, quick to learn the rules of the game, he came by the methods of a statesman. He induced New Jersey legislators to enact the wishes of the public into laws."

A bold, sure, safe foundation that on which to build a superstructure of broad and progressive statesmanship.

Next our Boston contemporary lays down the unchallengeable propositions that Governor Wilson's opinions are well known; that his qualifications are explicit, and that his character is unassailable. It urges the view—that when there can be no intelligent dissent—that we have passed the period of vociferation, and are at the hour of the man with the trained mind who "can express the needs of the hour and in terms of destruction, but of construction, and thus express its declaration that Woodrow Wilson was the logical selection" at Baltimore with this argument: "That the Democratic party, having taken him as its candidate, has proved itself worthy of the confidence given to it by the voters in the full elections of 1912, that the genuine election of the mass of the people, made under Democratic guidance and the businesslike leadership of Mr. Underwood, were proper prelude to the

notable work of the party's national convention, and that the convention has afforded the independent voters of the nation an opportunity to mark a Democrat who always considers public questions dispassionately, yet acts with firmness; who, while ardent for the changes which all progress entails, never permits his brain to be clouded with impulsive emotions." To follow the Globe's facts and reasoning is to concede that it not only defends successfully all three of the claims in its thesis, but absolutely and conclusively proves them.

MAYOR RICHARDSON'S DECISION.

In approving the ordinance granting the Richmond and Henrico franchise, Mayor Richardson had to satisfy himself that the ordinance is legal and that it is demanded by sound public policy. The opinion of City Attorney Follard left him but one course to pursue as to the legality of the grant, and that was to hold it legal, but there remained the question of policy, which Mayor Richardson also answered affirmatively.

"I approved the ordinance because I could not consent to create or protect a monopoly and thus secure to one set of persons special privileges which would have been denied to others," was the reason of the Mayor's decision. The main question was, however, not whether a monopoly should exist. The main question was, "What shall I protect the city to grant this franchise?" Would it not have been better to "create and protect" a monopoly and regulate it than to open up the field to a war to the death competition in which one company will inevitably have to buy out the other and weigh down the people with burdens instead of endowing them with benefits. Reduce the reasoning of the Mayor to its logical conclusion and it would be right to grant unlimited franchises, for if no set of persons can have special privileges it follows that all may enter the competition and increase endlessly the ultimate burden upon the people of the city.

The Times-Dispatch does not agree in the position taken by the City Council, the Mayor approving, but the future is to judge as to who was right and who was wrong in this controversy. If the franchise fails to become an ultimate burden upon the people, the experience of years will have been reversed. The Times-Dispatch will submit to the test of time to see whether or not the city has adopted a wise and beneficial policy in the interest of the people.

"BUSINESS IS GOOD."

The United States Steel Corporation is crowded with orders. It needs 5,000 men. It needs them so badly that it is not only advertising but sending out canvassers to secure men. Other steel mills and like industries experience the same need. In the automobile, furniture and other industries which are to be found in and around Detroit, the shortage of workmen is striking. The free labor bureau of Cleveland declares that the demand there for labor is so great that not an available workman can leave the city.

In the daily papers of the larger cities the "Help Wanted" columns are taking up vastly more than their average amount of space. Salesmen, clerks, bookkeepers, chauffeurs and men for domestic service are required by the hundreds.

The demand is not confined to those who have special training or mechanical skill. From the West there is a call for 10,000 men to help harvest. New York is everywhere in progress; day labor is needed everywhere. New York will soon need 10,000 unskilled workmen to build \$200,000,000 worth of rapid transit lines. The supply of workmen is far below the demand.

This means one thing above all else. In every branch, business is satisfactory. When labor is employed generally in the nation, and when it receives the good wages which must exist when the demand is greater than the supply, every store, traction line, and other like enterprise reaps the benefit.

The Wall Street Journal is of the opinion that "unless something unforeseen occurs to breed a lack of confidence, the coming autumn promises to be one of excellent business all round, and one in which no able-bodied man who really wants to work need lack for a means of earning support for himself and for those dependent upon him." There seems no likelihood that "something unforeseen" will happen. The election of a Democratic President, whose record as a public servant is free from disturbance of legitimate business will not change the surface of things. The outlook is distinctly rosy.

Let all the women exhibitors at the mammoth Virginia State Fair agree now to send all their matchless pies, cakes and preserves to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson for use this winter, for at the rate she is entertaining all comers now at Askearth, they need all the nice things her Virginia neighbors can fix up and send in when she moves into the White House.

Dear housewives, don't forget the art of making watermelon rind preserves, the best, sweetest, most healthful preserves in the world.

The small sample of rain that we had yesterday was universally approved. Let's have a lot more of it, we don't care what it costs.

Sometimes a man is bound to say, "What fools women are to wear this sort of barbarity of dress." But what about the fellow who sticks to a stiff collar in this weather?

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

From the Hickeyville Clarion.
Mr. Theodor Parker, who is the most eminent bugologist of this locality, has invented a new scheme for the annihilation of potato bugs. It is a sort of community plan which will save the individual from an immense amount of work. It is planned to have the hose company of that locality go about this summer with their hand engine and go all of the spraying that is needed. It is not thought that the fire company would have to miss many fires and the influence upon the potato crop would be invaluable.

Mr. Emory Walpole who is an eminent and highly respected snakebaiter and authority on reptileology, has had a pet blacksnake for several years, which he always carries with him in his buggy. The snake has been taught many useful tricks, but the most important is to act as a hitching strap when Mr. Walpole wishes to tie his horse. The snake glides out of the buggy, grasps the ring in his jaws and firmly wraps his tail around the hitching post holding the horse securely until Mr. Walpole returns from his shopping tour among the village thrift stores.

The Flies.
(With apologies to Edgar Allen Poe.)
Hear the buzzing of the flies—
Pesty flies—
As they seem to drop by millions from the skies.
Every one is a newcomer
Who has never buzzed before.
Who has come to spend the summer
And to put us on the hummer
With his deadly germs galore.
That he brings in at our door.
You will hasten with the swat—
If you're anywhere near wise.
Swat the flies, flies, flies.
Flies, flies, flies—
Swat 'em early, swat 'em often—
Swat the flies.

Oh, the does who specialize
On the flies.
Have already sounded many warnings.
One fly now will mean a million—
Yes, a million, bye and bye.
Later on 'twill mean a billion,
Then, still later, on, a trillion
And that is the reason why
It is certain you and I
Must go out and buy a swatter and
Must take some exercise.
Swat the flies, flies, flies, flies.
Flies, flies, flies—
Swat 'em early, swat 'em often—
Swat the flies.

That's What They All Say.
"You know perfectly well that I can't go to the reception, Lycurgus. I haven't got a thing to wear."
"Oh, Perceval, Mrs. Jones has got the loveliest tea wagon and I can get one exactly like it for \$57."
"Huh! I don't like to take no possible interest in baseball and I get tired of hearing about it. Say, what's the score?"
"Gosh, I hate them automobiles. I never had money enough to buy one myself."
"My kid said the cutest thing the other day. He's either going to be a congressman or a humorist when he grows up."
"Marvin, I never saw business so bad as it is at present. You can't have a limousine this year."

Voice of the People

The Sunday School Picnic.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—I am a Sunday school teacher, and I am writing you to express my opinion on the picnic which you are planning to have in the salt waves of the sea. See whole families with their baskets, the children and mother dear, for they do not mean to fast. It is the big time of the year. Chattering, pushing and shoving, and every one keeps moving, with their faces wet with smiles and our eyes get full of cinders if they don't you are in luck and you can't pull down the windows. At last we arrive and pour from the train like busy bees, and the children walk along the shore and later to the beach. With a laugh at mother's warning, we dash into the water and stay in all the morning, though we know we hadn't ought to, and the sun burns us badly as it shines upon the ocean. We come out and dash madly to rub ourselves with lotion.

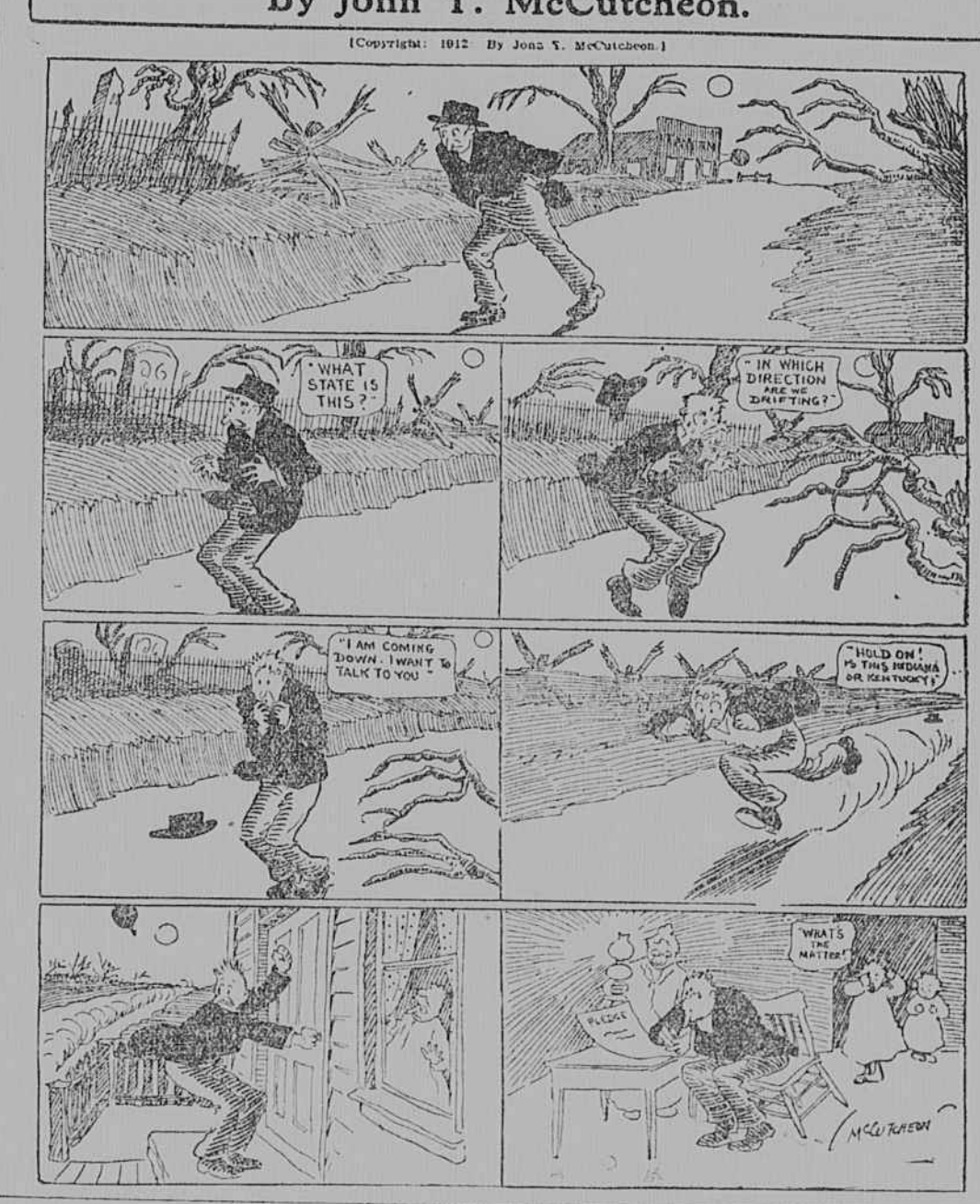
The happy day is over and we are home again, and our feet feel sore and our heads are aching. Every day says, "Never again!" mine, but do not fear, we will soon forget the pain and go again next year.

EARL GUY.
Richmond.

Mr. Ryan's Election as Delegate.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—As a reader of your paper, I have noticed a good many communications in your paper in reference to the election of Thomas F. Ryan as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention by the State convention, which assembled at Norfolk on May 23. Most of the statements in connection with this selection are hysterical, and are based upon facts which should be put to rest. I think Mr. Ryan's election was accomplished by a large vote, and that some of the statements are so far as to say that Ryan was selected by the convention was substituted for that of his son, I

IN THESE AIRSHIP DAYS.

By John T. McCutcheon.



was not at the convention, but I here-
with send you a statement made by Mr.
N. L. Shreckhouse, of my county of Augusta,
the secretary of the Tenth District
congressional meeting at Norfolk, which
clearly shows that all of the
statements are absolutely without
foundation.

Mr. Sidney, Va., July 6, 1912.
"This is to certify that I was a delegate
from Augusta county to the Norfolk
congressional meeting, and was secretary
of the Tenth Congressional District meet-
ing, at which meeting Mr. Thomas F. Ryan
was elected as one of the four
anti-Wilson members of the Tenth
District delegates to the Baltimore
house of the great nation."

Mr. Ryan's selection as a delegate
was approved by the unanimous vote
of the Tenth District meeting, and
as well as the anti-Wilson
delegates voting of him.

I further certify that I assisted
Colonel Joseph Burton, chairman of the
Tenth District, in preparing
our report to the full State convention,
and that this report contained the
fact that Thomas F. Ryan was elected
from the Tenth District as one of the
four anti-Wilson delegates to the Baltimore
house of the great nation. I was
unanimously approved by the full
State convention.

The above statement is clear, and
shows that Thomas F. Ryan was elected
as one of the four anti-Wilson dele-
gates to the Baltimore house of the
great nation. It is a fact that
did not know that Mr. Ryan was
elected a delegate, as many of them
thought that he was a delegate from
other districts. It is a fact that
Mr. Thomas F. Ryan was elected a
delegate, and that there was
nothing about the manner of his
election.

If any one who was in the Tenth
District meeting ever
said the Ryan who was elected
the son of Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, I
would like to know the name of the
party.

The Good Old Stock.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—Recently rummaging through an
old trunk I found the card of a
modest banquet of the Phi Kappa
Psi Fraternity of Johns Hopkins Uni-
versity, Baltimore, Md., dated
Md. This card has to-day an added
interest because all the banqueters
signed their names on it, and
right at the bottom of the list is
"Woodrow Wilson," who was at that
time, February 21, 1894, a student at
Hopkins. Among the other signa-
tures of that small group of young
men we can note Governor Floyd
Lowmeyer, of Maryland; Judge Albert
Rich, of Virginia; and a number of
Baltimoreans, and other names known in
Virginia, among which are T. K.
Fleming, Peyton Brown, R. H.
Fleming, J. E. Smith, George W. F.
Mason, and others who were alumni or
students at the time.

It is interesting to think of Phil Kappa Psi
in Virginia that I thought this might
be of interest to them.

Mr. Wilson, born in Augusta county,
Va., and of Virginia ancestry, was
elected, he the eighth President of Vir-
ginia stock. Another service stripe
he had in the United States army, and
his education in the farther South
married to a Georgia lady, spending
his first year of professional life as
a lawyer in Atlanta, Ga., he was
familiar with the customs and tradi-
tions of that section, and in accord
with the spirit of the people, having
lived in Baltimore last as a single
man and as a married one, he will un-
derstand Marylanders. Then, most
of his Maryland's share and of the
North of Mason and Dixon's line, has
given him an opportunity to fully ac-
quaint himself with the hopes and as-
pirations of folk of that land. And
Southern man, familiar with all its
lore, but whose mature years have
been spent in the North, may he be
the one to finally wipe out the old
traces and vestige of sectionalism? These
thoughts start one thinking in
another direction. Perhaps it is not
so much the places where a person is
born and educated as the stock from
which he comes? Mr. Wilson is of the
famous North of Ireland Scottish race,
with a blend of the English in Vir-
ginia, and this is easily the most re-
markable stock in the United States,
being the same from which sprang
Stonewall Jackson and his soldiers, or
most of them too. Though some may
differ as to the righteousness of their
cause, all must admire the wonderful
things they did, and wish if they had
to fight they could battle the same
way and with the same success.
A thing brought out by recent investi-
gations largely due to the lifelong work
of Judge Lyman Chabrier, of Staunton,
Va., is the amazing fact that more
than 50 per cent. of the Congressmen
and Senators now in office are the de-
scendants of the early settlers of Au-
gusta county, Virginia, and it is said

that the number of professional men
of Augusta county, Virginia, stock
is in excess of those descendants from
the New England States. This does
not mean that Augusta county is a
member that Augusta county first
in colonial days was all of Virginia
and the Blue Ridge Mountains, and
then included Kentucky and parts of
Ohio, Indiana, etc. The cross between
the Saxon and Celtic stocks has in all
English and well as American history
stood for brilliancy and achievement.
The presidency is a big job. It is hard
to please every one or even a majority
of such a place. When he has played
his part in the papers of paper games
or in the shape of a cup or
thimble. The principle is the same,
and whenever property changes hands
over the lack of care, no matter how
small is the value of the prize, he
never thought of it, but where do all
the gamblers come from? They are
not taught in the gambling den. A
"greener" unless he is a fool, never
enters a gambling den, because he
knows that he will be treated less
than fifteen minutes. He has learned some-
where else before he sets foot inside
of such a place. When he has played
in the parlors in the social games of
the homes, and has become proficient
enough to win prizes among his
friends, the next step with him is to
seek out the gambling room. For my
part, I could never see the difference
between a place where a piece of silver
is moved in the game of money and
played in the shape of a cup or
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